

ANNEX L

VOLUNTEER RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS

A. PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this annex is to describe and define the structure and capabilities of private relief organizations in disaster situations.
2. The West Virginia Office of Emergency Services works with the organizations described in this annex on a continuing basis to provide coordination in utilizing volunteer services for emergency operations and relief and recovery activities. It is expected that all State agencies in fulfilling their responsibilities delineated in this plan may, at times, involve the utilization of volunteer relief organizations.
3. The Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency, is authorized by Public Law 93-288, Section 312 to enter into agreements with volunteer relief or disaster assistance organizations under which the activities of these organizations may be coordinated by the Federal Coordinating Officer. Whenever such organizations are engaged in providing such assistance during or after an emergency or major disaster; current agreements will include provisions assuring that the use of Federal facilities, supplies and services will be in compliance with regulations prohibiting duplication of benefits. Also guaranteeing non-discrimination promulgated by the President under the Act and such other regulations as the President may require.
4. Prior to, or in the absence of, a Presidential disaster or emergency declaration, the Director, Office of Emergency Services, or another individual named by the Governor to coordinate emergency operations, will work with the involved volunteer relief organizations to assure the best use of their resources to meet the human needs arising from the emergency. The State Coordinating Officer establishes liaison with all volunteer relief organizations helping with recovery efforts and may, in large-scale disasters, appoint a State Volunteer Coordinator to work with these agencies.
 - a. American Red Cross
 - (1) Authorization: Act of Congress, (Act of January 5, 1905, 33 Stat. 599) as amended (36 U.S. Code, Section 1); Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288; Executive Order 11795).
 - (a) The American Red Cross Congressional Charter requires the organization to undertake relief activities for the purpose of mitigating the suffering

caused by disaster and obligates the American Red Cross to develop and carry out measures that prevent the suffering. The American Red Cross at all levels gives priority to planning for and providing assistance to victims of all disasters. Uniform guidelines and procedures are used for the provision of services.

(b) Additionally, American Red Cross policy stresses that it will serve as an advocate to help disaster victims in obtaining available government assistance or other recovery aid, and that the Red Cross role extends to promotion and enhancement of the role of government at all levels in providing extended recovery programs adequate to meet the needs of disaster victims.

(2) Capabilities

- (a) The American Red Cross will undertake a damage assessment for the purpose of determining the extent of the disaster, particularly the habitability of permanent residences.
- (b) The American Red Cross will maintain a listing of suitable shelter facilities and will operate emergency shelters, in cooperation with other organizations, when it determines the necessity. Registration records will be kept for those individuals and families who utilize the shelter.
- (c) In cooperation with other organizations, the American Red Cross will provide mobile and fixed feeding sites for victims and emergency workers.
- (d) The American Red Cross will provide casework services and financial assistance for emergency needs, including food, clothing, rent, bedding, necessary household furnishings, medical needs, transportation, temporary home repair and occupational supplies. The American Red Cross will provide victims with referrals to other sources of aid.
- (e) The American Red Cross will offer welfare inquiry and information services to help family members locate one another.
- (f) The American Red Cross will provide medical and nursing aid, as well as blood and blood products.

- (g) The American Red Cross will provide additional recovery assistance to families where government programs are not available or are not sufficient to resolve all emergency needs.

b. Salvation Army

- (1) Authorization: The Salvation Army Charter, May 12, 1899; The Disaster Relief Act of 1974.

The Salvation Army is a religious and charitable organization and, by tradition, serves to alleviate human suffering during the emergency period of a disaster. The Salvation Army Disaster Service is an authorized activity to assist State and local governments and, as such, is permitted to operate in a disaster. Services are not given competitively nor with any thought of displacing other organizations. The Salvation Army will consider the adequacy of its resources and personnel for the major task of long term recovery following a major disaster on a disaster-by-disaster basis.

(2) Capabilities

- (a) Mobile and mass feeding - hot meals in existing Salvation Army facilities or temporary facilities and/or snacks and light meals from mobile kitchens for disaster victims and emergency workers at the scene of the disaster.

- (b) Disaster counseling - spiritual counseling, comforting the bereaved, consoling the injured and disturbed, family counseling and casework services.

- (c) Collection and distribution of donated goods - according to predetermined needs: food, clothing, furniture, medical supplies, building materials, cleaning supplies, bedding, utensils and tools.

- (d) Registration and identification - victims, missing person services, locating individuals and answering inquiries from concerned relatives and families outside the disaster area.

- (e) Temporary housing - in Salvation Army facilities or other facilities assigned for that purpose.

(f) Services to emergency/disaster workers—spiritual and other counseling, food services on and off the disaster scene.

(g) Referrals - to appropriate government and private agencies for special services.

(h) Distribution of Bibles.

(i) Long-term recovery assistance on a disaster-by-disaster basis.

c. Mennonite Disaster Service

(1) Authorization: Not established by Federal Law but recognized by the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288.

The Mennonite Disaster Service is a voluntary, religious and charitable organization which, by tradition, acts to relieve human suffering and assist individuals and families in the recovery from the effects of a natural disaster. The organization has four regions covering the United States with 51 local units and is a total volunteer program.

(2) Capabilities

(a) Clean up after natural disasters for houses and property.

(b) Repairs, temporary and permanent, for elderly and under-insured.

(c) Rebuilding and reconstruction for low income, disadvantaged, minorities, and handicapped families.

d. Seventh-Day Adventist Community Services

(1) Authorization: Not established by law.

The Seventh-day Adventist Community Services is a voluntary, religious and charitable organization that acts to relieve human suffering. There are nine area conferences in Canada and the United States.

(2) Capabilities:

Adventist Community Services have a substantial stock of clean, organized clothing and bedding located in many centers and ready for immediate distribution. They are prepared to move these to points of need with special vehicles and trained staff. Distribution can be made directly from vehicles or from emergency centers set up in a disaster area.

e. American Humane Association

(1) Authorization: Not established by law.

The American Humane Association is a national organization created for the relief of domestic animals and pets. Two offices in eastern and western branches arrange for required assistance throughout the United States.

(2) Capabilities

Financial aid to local humane associations or societies to assist with the collection, care, feeding and reuniting with owners such domestic animals and pets.